

# From lab to life: Associating brain reward processing with daily life motivated behaviour and symptoms of depression in non-help-seeking young adults.

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## Supplemental Materials

### *Group abbreviations:*

m/m-D=participants with mild/moderate symptoms of depression; n/l-D=participants with no/low symptoms of depression.

### *fMRI data acquisition specifications.*

Functional images were collected using a T2\*-sensitive gradient echo sequence with 47 interleaved axial slices (S>>I) with a thickness of 3mm (voxelsize 3x3x3), no slice gap and GRAPPA acceleration factor 3, matrix size 72x72, FOV 216x216mm for full brain coverage (TR=2450 ms, TE=28ms, flip angle=75 degrees) using a 64-channel head/neck coil. In addition, Magnetization Prepared Rapid Acquisition Gradient Echo (MPRAGE) images (voxelsize 1x1x1 mm) were acquired using a T1-weighted sequence containing 192 slices in coronal direction, inversion time 900ms, one excitation, GRAPPA acceleration factor 2, matrix size 256 × 256, FOV 256 × 256 mm (TR=2250 ms, TE=2.21 ms, flip angle= 9°).

### *fMRI data preprocessing*

First, raw images were checked for scanner-related artifacts (excluded: 1 n/l-D, 2 m/m-D). Realignment and co-registration were performed using SPM default settings: functional scans were realigned to the mean image using fourth degree of B-spline interpolation, and then coregistered to the individual's anatomical images using the normalized mutual information approach. Data from participants with absolute movement > 4mm were excluded (2 n/l-D, 1 m/m-D). Additionally, imaging time series were examined for excessive motion artifacts using the Artifact Detection Tool (ART) software package ([https://www.nitrc.org/projects/artifact\\_detect](https://www.nitrc.org/projects/artifact_detect)). Outlier volumes were identified by assessing scan-to-scan differences (thresholds: global signal=3, composite movement=1). Data from subjects with more than 15% outlier volumes were excluded from further analyses (excluded: 0 n/l-D, 2 m/m-D). Lastly, functional images were normalized to common stereotactic space (Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI) T1-template) while resampling to 2x2x2 voxelsize after which they were smoothed with a 4mm Gaussian kernel.

### *Computational model (Q-learning)*

A standard Q-learning algorithm was used to calculate the expected value ( $Q(a,t)$ ) of the performed action ( $a$ ) at a certain trial ( $t$ ); and the prediction error ( $\text{outcome}(t) - Q(a,t)$ ) after each action (Sutton and Barto, 1998):  $Q(a,t+1) = Q(a,t) + \alpha * (\text{outcome}(t) - Q(a,t))$ . The model was set to select actions according to a standard softmax logistic function:  $P(a_1,t) = [\exp(Q(a_1,t)/\beta)] / [\exp(Q(a_1,t)/\beta) + \exp(Q(a_2,t)/\beta)]$ . The two free parameters ( $\alpha$  =learning rate,  $\beta$  =temperature) were optimized for every participant to maximize the likelihood of their own trial-by-trial sequence of choices, using the `fmincon` function in

MATLAB (R2013a). Model fits were compared to a naïve model that assumes participants choose all stimuli with equal probability and had no free parameters (by calculating pseudoR<sup>2</sup> values:  $(LLE_{chance} - LLE_{model})/LLE_{chance}$ <sup>1</sup> (McFadden, 1973)).

#### *RPE parameter estimates and ESM measures – models*

The following models were analysed (RA=reward anticipation, AP=activity pleasantness, RPE=reward prediction error signal, extracted from Nucleus Accumbens (left and right) and Putamen (left and right), time\_overall = time in days (with two decimals) since midnight of the day of the first filled-in beep questionnaire, time\_within\_day = time in minutes since midnight of that day):

- $Y_{ij} = \alpha_{0i} + \beta_1 \underline{RPE_i} + \beta_2 Age_i + \beta_3 Gender_i + \beta_4 \underline{Education\_level} + \beta_5 \underline{time\_overall_{ij}} + \beta_6 \underline{time\_within\_day_{ij}} + \epsilon_{ij}$ , with  $Y_{ij}$  being reward anticipation and activity pleasantness.
- $AP(t)_{ij} = \alpha_{0i} + \beta_1 RA(t-1)_{ij} + \beta_2 RPE_i + \beta_3 \underline{RA(t-1)_{ij} * RPE_i} + \beta_4 AP(t-1)_{ij} + \beta_5 Age_i + \beta_6 Gender_i + \beta_7 \underline{Education\_level} + \beta_8 \underline{time\_overall_{ij}} + \beta_9 \underline{time\_within\_day_{ij}} + \epsilon_{ij}$
- $AP(t)_{ij} = \alpha_{0i} + \beta_1 RA(t-1)_{ij} + \beta_2 RA(t-1)^2_{ij} + \beta_3 RPE_i + \beta_4 \underline{RA(t-1)_{ij} * RPE_i} + \beta_5 \underline{RA(t-1)^2_{ij} * RPE_i} + \beta_6 AP(t-1)_{ij} + \beta_7 Age_i + \beta_8 Gender_i + \beta_9 \underline{Education\_level} + \beta_{10} \underline{time\_overall_{ij}} + \beta_{11} \underline{time\_within\_day_{ij}} + \epsilon_{ij}$

with a random intercept for each participant ( $\alpha_{0i} = \alpha + u_{0i}$ ) and a random slope for all  $\beta$ 's of ESM predictors ( $\beta_{xi} = \beta_x + u_{xi}$ ), where  $\epsilon_{ij} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ ,  $u_{0i} \sim N(0, \tau_0^2)$  and  $u_{xi} \sim N(0, \tau_x^2)$  and covariations between random intercept and random slopes were assumed 0.

The beta's of the underlined model components are reported in Table 2 of the main paper.

#### *ESM beep questionnaire response rates*

The 114 participants who provided complete data filled in a total number of 10.001 beep questionnaires (mean=88 beeps per person, sd=31, range=23-165). The 27 participants excluded due to various reasons filled in a total of 2.096 complete beep questionnaires (mean=78 beeps per person, sd=28, range=23-123). The final sample of 87 participants who were analysed filled in a total number of 7.905 complete beep questionnaires (mean: 91 beeps per person, sd=31, range=23-165). On average these 87 participants responded to beep questionnaires on 14.9 days (sd=2.7, range=6-25). The average beep response in the analysed sample was 60% (sd=16%, range=31%-87%). Groups did not differ in average beep response rate (n/l-D: average=60%, m/m-D: average=61%,  $T=-0.06$ ,  $p=.95$ ).

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<sup>1</sup>  $LLE_{model}$  corresponds to the maximum logarithmic likelihood of the observed choices under the model.  $LLE_{chance}$  corresponds to the logarithmic likelihood of choices at chance [ $LLE_{chance} = t * \log(0.5)$ ], with  $t$  being the number of trials.

**Supplementary Table 1:** MNI peak coordinates of brain regions encoding Reward Prediction Error in the complete sample (n=87), modelled with fixed group average reward learning rate = 0.2;  $p < 0.05$  Family Wise Error (FWE) cluster corrected, with an initial cluster forming threshold of  $p = 0.001$ . Brain region labels according to the Harvard-Oxford Atlas.

| Brain region                  | Cluster size | MNI (x,y,z)   | T-score | Cluster p (FWE) |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|
| L Supramarginal Gyrus         | 853          | -54, -36, 44  | 7.72    | <.001           |
| L Superior Parietal Lobule    |              | -38, -44, 42  | 4.94    |                 |
| L Postcentral Gyrus           |              | -62, -24, 24  | 3.65    |                 |
| R Supramarginal Gyrus         | 616          | 44, -32, 42   | 7.20    | <.001           |
| R Postcentral Gyrus           |              | 60, -16, 32   | 4.64    |                 |
| R Superior Parietal Lobule    |              | 40, -38, 52   | 4.20    |                 |
| L Middle Temporal Gyrus       | 574          | -56, -52, -10 | 7.20    | <.001           |
| L Inferior Temporal Gyrus     |              | -48, -54, -14 | 5.25    |                 |
| R Cingulate Gyrus (posterior) | 444          | 4, -32, 42    | 6.91    | <.001           |
| L Cingulate Gyrus (posterior) |              | -4, -40, 34   | 4.75    |                 |
| L Cingulate Gyrus (anterior)  | 1705         | -2, 38, 4     | 6.83    | <.001           |
| L Paracingulate Gyrus         |              | -4, 54, 2     | 6.82    |                 |
| R Frontal Pole                |              | 2, 56, -2     | 6.76    |                 |
| R Cingulate Gyrus (anterior)  |              | 2, 38, 10     | 6.09    |                 |
| R Paracingulate Gyrus         |              | 10, 54, 2     | 5.46    |                 |
| R Frontal Medial Cortex       |              | 8, 40, -12    | 5.34    |                 |
| L Frontal Pole                |              | -8, 58, 8     | 5.19    |                 |
| R Putamen                     | 622          | 18, 8, -10    | 6.35    | <.001           |
| L Accumbens                   |              | -12, 10, -8   | 6.28    |                 |
| L Putamen                     |              | -20, 10, -12  | 6.20    |                 |
| R Frontal Orbital Cortex      |              | 14, 6, -12    | 5.86    |                 |
| R Accumbens                   |              | 8, 16, -4     | 5.60    |                 |
| R Amygdala                    |              | 22, -2, -16   | 4.72    |                 |
| R Inferior Temporal Gyrus     | 280          | 58, -48, -14  | 5.96    | <.001           |
| L Frontal Pole                | 115          | -24, 38, -12  | 5.59    | <.001           |
| L Frontal Orbital Cortex      |              | -26, 30, -16  | 4.79    |                 |
| R Hippocampus                 | 54           | 32, -30, -6   | 5.52    | 0.022           |
| L Cingulate Gyrus (anterior)  | 102          | -2, 2, 32     | 5.31    | <.001           |
| R Cingulate Gyrus (anterior)  |              | 4, -2, 32     | 4.87    |                 |
| L Lateral Occipital Cortex    | 206          | -26, -66, 38  | 5.14    | <.001           |
| L Insular Cortex              | 58           | -36, -14, 14  | 4.86    | 0.015           |
| L Superior Frontal Gyrus      | 118          | -20, 30, 50   | 4.67    | <.001           |
| L Precuneus Cortex            | 61           | -2, -56, 18   | 4.66    | 0.011           |
| L Cingulate Gyrus (posterior) |              | -4, -52, 24   | 4.63    |                 |
| L Inferior Frontal Gyrus      | 61           | -38, 34, 14   | 4.57    | 0.011           |
| L Frontal Pole                |              | -44, 40, 14   | 4.00    |                 |
| L Hippocampus                 | 72           | -26, -28, -10 | 4.53    | 0.004           |
| L Precentral Gyrus            | 49           | -50, 2, 34    | 4.30    | 0.036           |

Note. Abbreviations: L=left, R=right.

**Supplementary Table 2.** *Correlations between mean activity in each ROI*

|        | R Put     | L Put    | R NAcc    | L NAcc |
|--------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------|
| R Put  | 1.0000    |          |           |        |
| L Put  | 0.5174*** | 1.0000   |           |        |
| R NAcc | 0.5538*** | 0.2379*  | 1.0000    |        |
| L NAcc | 0.6184*** | 0.3279** | 0.6202*** | 1.0000 |

*Note.* Abbreviations: R=right, L=left, Put=Putamen, NAcc=Nucleus Accumbens, ROI=region of interest.

\*\*\*<.001, \*\* <.01, \* <.05

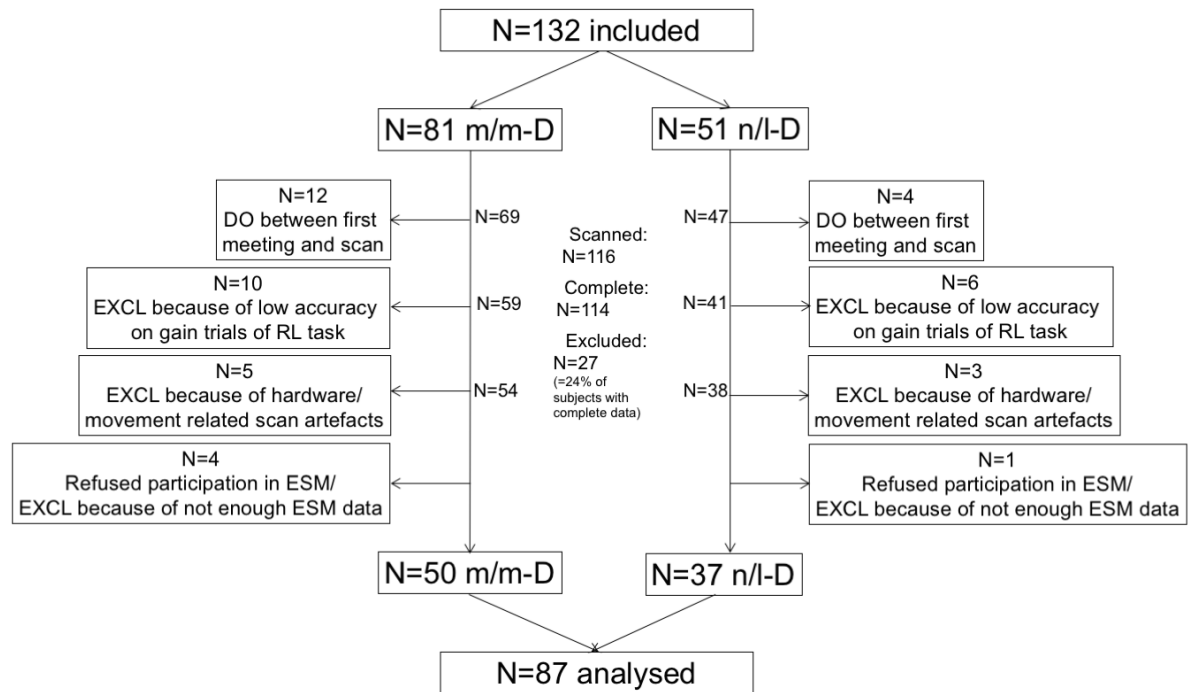
**Supplementary Table 3.** *Mean activation in each ROI (analysed with REX toolbox)*

| ROI       | beta | T    | ROI p (FDR) |
|-----------|------|------|-------------|
| L NAcc    | 0.49 | 7.29 | <.001       |
| L Putamen | 0.35 | 6.11 | <.001       |
| R NAcc    | 0.45 | 6.37 | <.001       |
| R Putamen | 0.32 | 5.40 | <.001       |

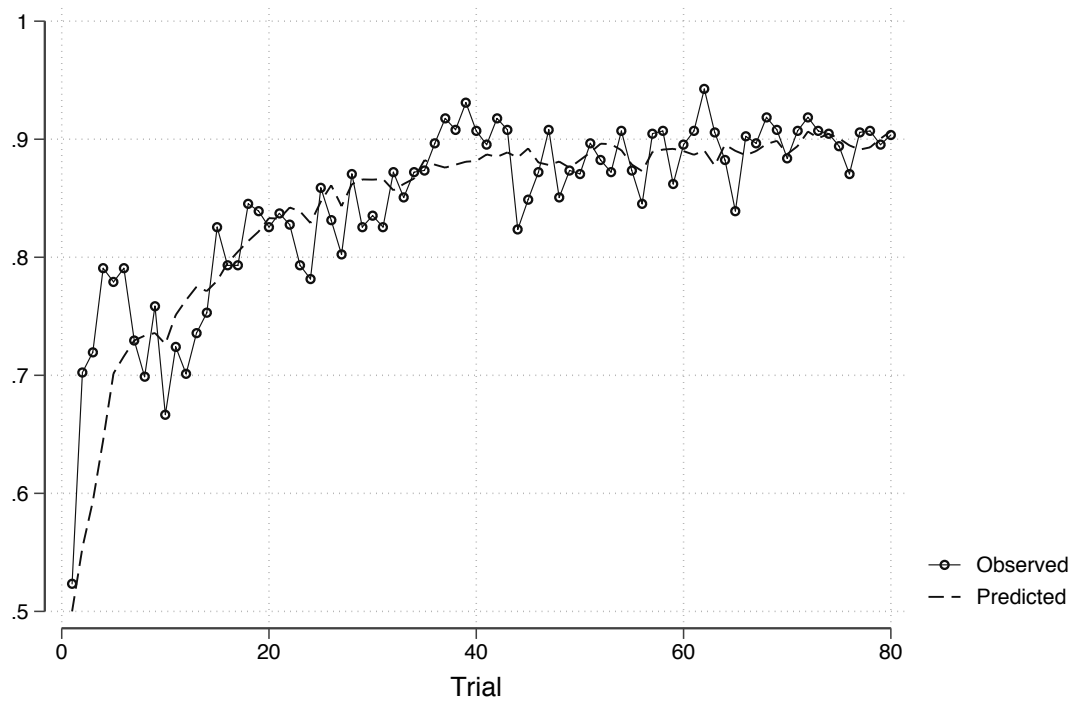
*Note.* Abbreviations: R=right, L=left, Put=Putamen, NAcc=Nucleus Accumbens, ROI=region of interest, FDR=False Discovery Rate-corrected.

**Supplementary Figure 1. Participant Flow Chart.**

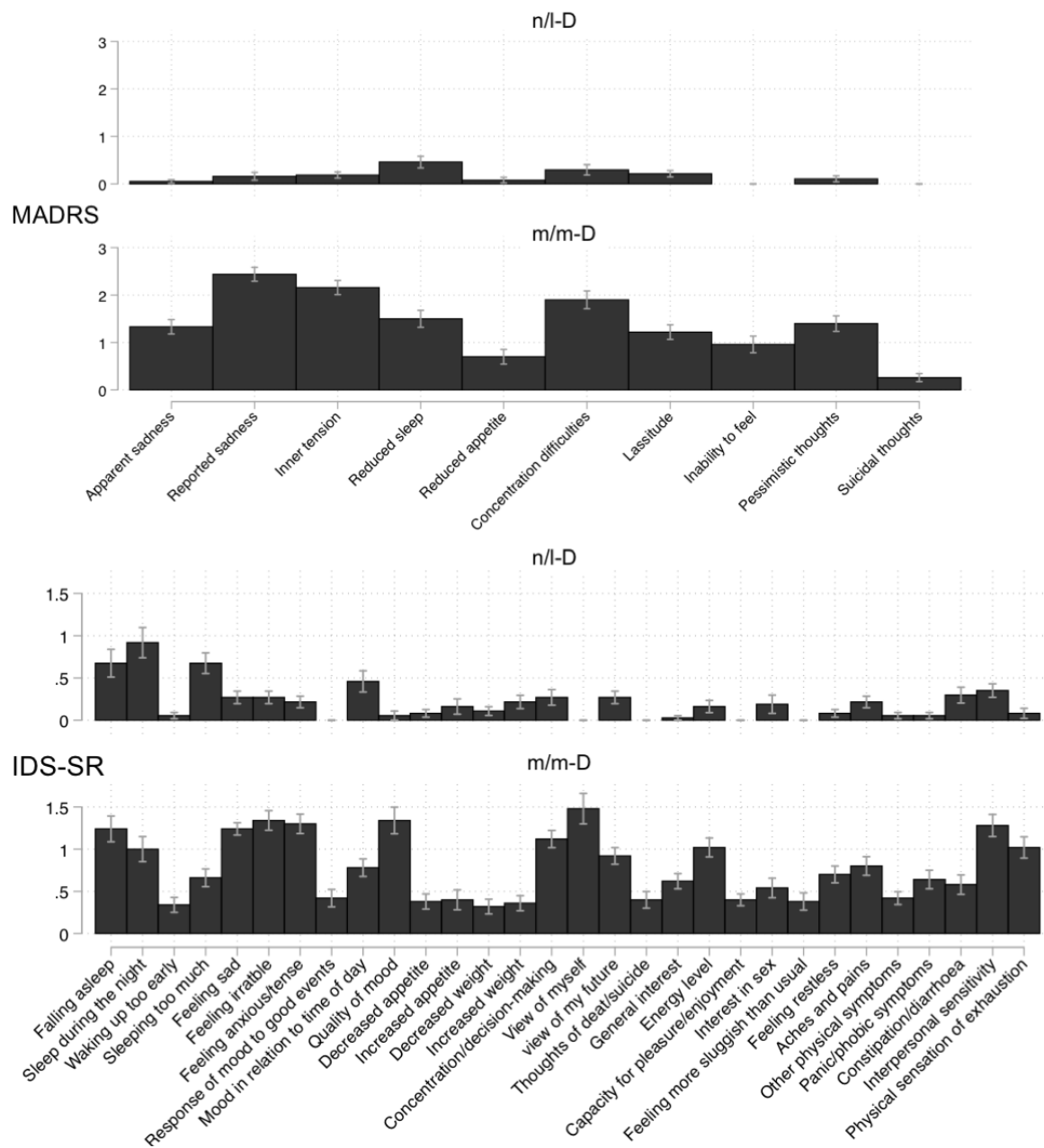
Abbreviations: m/m-D=participants with mild/moderate symptoms of depression; n/l-D =participants with no/low symptoms of depression, DO=drop-out, EXCL=excluded, ESM=Experience Sampling Method,



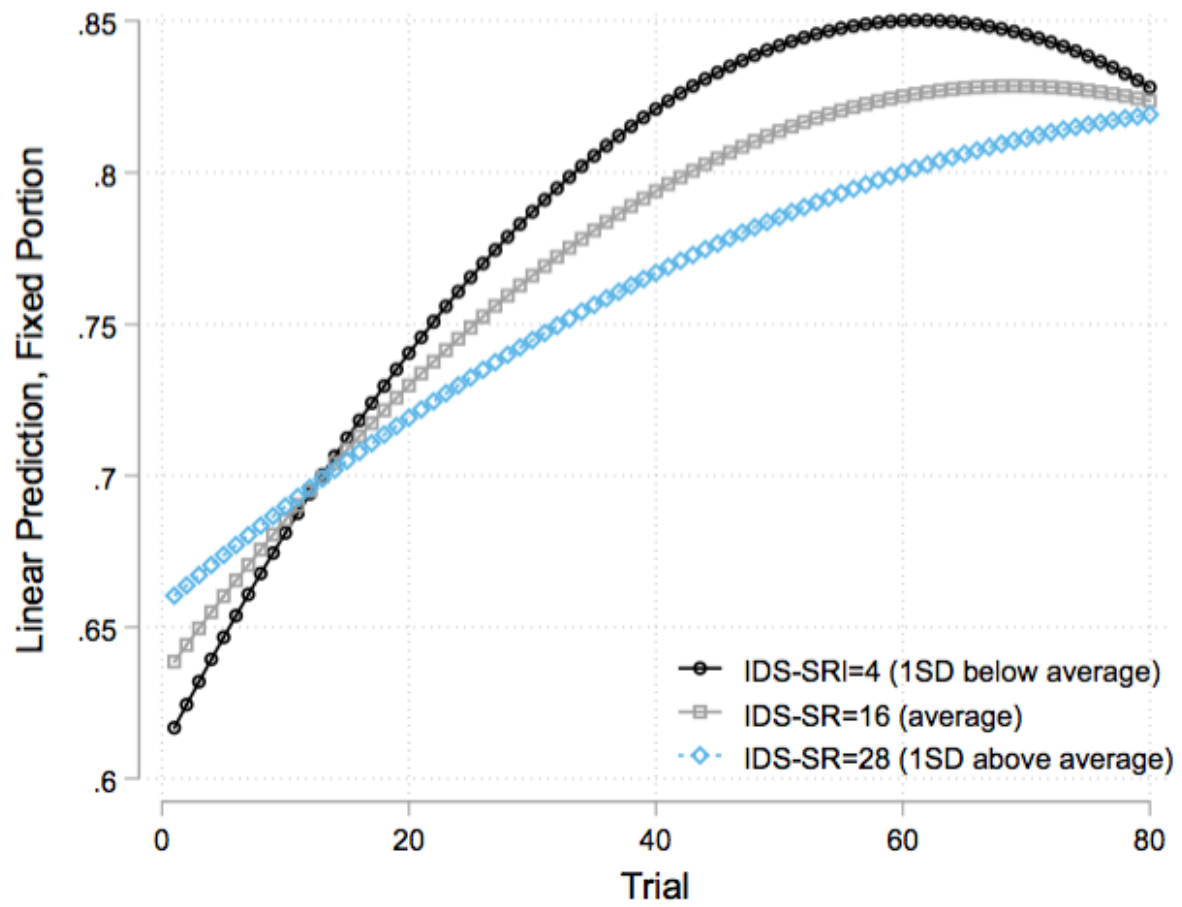
**Supplementary Figure 2.** Observed choice accuracy behaviour (average over the whole group) with model predictions overlaid.



**Supplementary Figure 3.** Group averages per symptom of the IDS-SR and MADRS



**Supplementary Figure 4.** Simple slopes; estimated marginal means for cumulative choice accuracy for average and 1 standard deviation below/above average depression severity.





### *References*

- McFadden, D.** (1973). Conditional logit analysis of qualitative choice behavior. In *Frontiers in Econometrics* (ed. P. Zarembka), pp. 105-142. Academic Press: New York.
- Sutton, R. S. & Barto, A. G.** (1998). *Reinforcement learning: An introduction*. MIT press.